

LXIX.—On the Specific Names of certain Primates.

By ANGEL CABRERA, C.M.Z.S.

ALMOST every author who has alluded to the grey, red-vented *Cercopithecus* from South Africa seems to have been in doubt as to whether the name *pygerythrus*, F. Cuv., or *alandii*, I. Geoffr., should be assigned to it. As a recent instance, Mr. Oldfield Thomas indifferently used both of them in his interesting series of papers on mammals obtained during the Rudd Exploration*. By adopting *pygerythrus* in his excellent revision of the genus†, Mr. Pocock seems to settle the question definitely; but I cannot agree with this conclusion.

Cercopithecus pygerythrus was described and figured by F. Cuvier in the 'Histoire Naturelle des Mammifères' as a green monkey with greenish scrotum, whereas the South-African form is a grey animal and its scrotum is blue. Mr. Pocock bases the selection of Cuvier's name on the argument that the type of *pygerythrus* was "recorded from the Cape"; but that is a mistake, since I. Geoffroy conclusively showed on three different occasions that its locality was quite unknown‡. Cuvier himself, in the original description, does not say a word about the locality of the type, but only that several specimens of the same species were obtained by Delalande at the Cape. Now, in the zoological part of the 'Voyage sur La Vénus,' p. 12, I. Geoffroy rightly explains this statement as follows:—

"Dans les immenses collections faites dans l'Afrique australe par Delalande, se trouvaient quelques individus de l'espèce précédemment observée par Thunberg, et avant lui par Levaillant; mais ces individus étaient tous fort jeunes. Lors de l'arrivée en France des collections de Delalande, M. F. Cuvier crut trouver dans ces jeunes Singes le premier âge d'un Cercopithèque qui vivait alors à la ménagerie du Muséum, et dont ce savant zoologiste a fait le type de son *C. pygerythrus*. C'était une erreur, mais une erreur à laquelle il était alors difficile d'échapper: les affinités qui existent entre le *C. pygerythrus* et l'espèce de Levaillant, de

* P. Z. S. 1905, i. p. 255; 1906, i. p. 160, ii. p. 780; 1907, p. 776; 1908, p. 537.

† P. Z. S. 1907, p. 735.

‡ 'Dictionnaire universel d'Histoire Naturelle,' iii. (1842) p. 305; 'Archives du Muséum d'Hist. Nat. ii. (1842) p. 78; 'Voyage autour du Monde sur la frégate La Vénus: Zoologie,' 1855, pp. 10, 13, 29.

Thunberg et de Delalande, sont tellement intimes, qu'ayar sous les yeux, d'un côté, l'état adulte du premier, sans son jeune âge, et, de l'autre, le très jeune âge de la seconde sans son état adulte, on devait être porté à attribuer à de simples différences d'âge les différences que l'on apercevait entre les pelage de l'une et celui de l'autre. M. Frédéric Cuvier n'hésita donc pas à les réunir, et c'est par suite de cette confusion qu'il donna l'Afrique australe pour patrie au *C. pygerythrus*: espèce n'ayant en réalité pour type qu'un individu acheté de marchands qui ignoraient entièrement son origine, et dont la véritable patrie reste aujourd'hui même inconnue."

I. Geoffroy, who saw the type of *pygerythrus* and compared it with adult specimens of the grey form collected by Verreaux in South Africa, emphasized the difference between them in his "Synopsis" included in the same book (pp. 19-34) describing the Cuvier species as very distinct from the Cape one "par son pelage vert jaunâtre et non gris."

We must, consequently, leave the name *pygerythrus* for a red-vented *Cercopithecus* with green fur, the typical habitat of which is unknown, and adopt another for the grey-coloured form found in South Africa. Desmoulins, who suspected before Geoffroy the distinction between them, calls the latter *C. pusillus*, attributing this name to Delalande*. Unfortunately the name of the French traveller appeared, no doubt accidentally, italicized like that of the animal, thus: "*Cercopithecus pusillus Delalande*"; and it was on account of this that I. Geoffroy considered the term a non-binomial one and rejected it, calling the species *C. lalandii*. Mr. Oldfield Thomas, to whom I applied for his opinion on the subject, thinks the apparently uncorrect name is a printer's fault, as the whole article in which it appeared is written in conformity with the principles of binomial nomenclature; and I entirely agree with his decision. We must therefore call the South-African monkey *C. pusillus*.

Long before the publication of this name, as early, in fact, as in 1811, the same animal was mentioned by Lichtenstein as *C. glaucus*; but no description being given, this name is merely a *nomen nudum*.

Now, if we consider all the *Cercopithec*i with red vent local forms of a single species, the green one, being described the first, will be typical, and *C. pusillus* will become *C. pygerythrus pusillus*. As for the true *pygerythrus*, I think it can be identified with one of the green subspecies.

* Dictionn. Class. d'Hist. Nat. vii. (1825) p. 568.

According to Mr. Pocock there are two subspecies—*C. p. whytei*, with whiskers completely concealing the ears and very conspicuously banded; and *C. p. centralis*, with whisker-hairs comparatively short, not concealing the ears, and indistinctly banded. The characters assigned to the last agree very well with Cuvier's figure and description of *pygerythrus*, and also with the short description by I. Geoffroy in his "Synopsis." *C. p. centralis* is from Central Africa, and that seems to be the habitat presumed for *pygerythrus* by I. Geoffroy when he says:—

"La presque identité du pelage du *C. pygerythrus* avec celui du *C. sabæus* qui habite le Sénégal, et celui du *C. griseoviridis* [= *C. æthiops*], qui habite la Nubie et le sud de l'Égypte, indique à elle seule une analogie très grande dans la zone d'habitat de ces trois espèces" *.

Of course, the area inhabited by *centralis* was quite unknown to Europeans in Cuvier's time, but I think it not impossible that an isolated specimen reached Mombasa or the Somali coast from the interior of the country through native trade. The total ignorance about the origin of the type specimen of *pygerythrus* and the fact that it was for many years the only red-vented *Cercopithecus* with green hair known to naturalists seem to indicate that it came from a country unknown, or almost so, to white men.

To sum up, I give the synonymy of both the green and the grey forms, according to my views:—

Cercopithecus pygerythrus (F. Cuvier).

1821. *Simia pygerythra*, F. Cuv. Hist. Nat. des Mammif. livr. xxiv. pl. xxiii.
 1822. *Cercopithecus pygerythreus*, Desmar. Mammal., Suppl. p. 534.
 1829. *Simia erythropygga*, Cuvier, Règn. Anim. sec. édit. p. 92.
 1833. *Cercopithecus pygerythrus*, F. Cuv. Hist. Nat. des Mammif. sec. édit.
 1900. *Cercopithecus centralis*, Neumann, Zool. Jahrb. Syst. xiii. p. 533.
 1904. *Cercopithecus æthiops centralis*, Thomas, P. Z. S. 1904, i. p. 459.
 1907. *Cercopithecus pygerythrus centralis*, Pocock, P. Z. S. 1907, p. 739.

Cercopithecus pygerythrus pusillus (Desmoulins).

- (?) 1797. *Simia sabæa*, var. *a*, Aud. bert, Hist. Nat. des Singes, fam. iv. sect. ii. fig. 5.
 1811. *Cercopithecus glaucus*, Lichtenst. Reis. Sudl. Africa, i. p. 507 [nomen nudum].

* Voy. Venus, p. 10.

1825. *Cercopithecus pygerythrus*, Desmoulins (part.), Dict. Class. d'Hist. Nat. vii. p. 560, and authors generally. (Not of F. Cuvier.)
 1825. *Cercopithecus pusillus*, Desmoulins (attributed to Delalande), *loc. cit.* vii. p. 563.
 1842. *Cercopithecus lalandii*, I. Geoffroy, Dict. Univ. d'Hist. Nat. iii. p. 305.

Cercopithecus pygerythrus is not the only Cuvierian name for a monkey which needs discussion. In the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society' for 1887, p. 624, Dr. Blanford, referring to the mistake made in calling the crab-eating or common macaque, *Macacus cynomolgus*, called attention to the fact that F. Cuvier named the species *Macacus irus* as early as in 1818*. Afterwards, in the 'Fasciculi Malayenses' (Zool. i. 1903, p. 3), Mr. Bonhote rejects this name and substitutes for it *fascicularis*, Raffles (1822), on the ground that *irus* was really an African monkey; but this view seems to me untenable for the following reasons:—

It is true that Cuvier, in the original description of *Macacus irus*, asserted that the species came from West Africa; but the characters given cannot be referred to any African monkey, and the figures illustrating the extract from the same description in the 'Histoire Naturelle des Mammifères' † clearly represent the crab-eating macaque. Moreover, Cuvier himself, in the description of his *Macacus carbonarius* ‡, corrects his former statement about the locality of the common species, giving Sumatra and the neighbouring islands as its true habitat, and confessing he was unaware of the origin of the animal when he described it. The assertion is reinforced by Dr. Anderson's opinion that the "macaque" and the Sumatran "macaque à face noire" of F. Cuvier are only individual variations of the same species §.

The locality of *Simia fascicularis* being given also as Sumatra, this name becomes a synonym of *Macacus irus*, which antedates it by four years, and must therefore be adopted for the species.

It is a pity that the barbarous specific name *miriquouina* must be used for the South-Brazilian *Aotus* originally described by Don Felix de Azara and currently known as *Aotus azarae*. The first name is found, as *Pithecia miriquouina*, in the "Tableau des Quadrumanes," published by E. Geoffroy in the

* Mémoires du Mus. d'Hist. Nat. iv. p. 120.

† Pls. xxx., xxxi. (1819).

‡ *Loc. cit.* pl. xxxii. (1825).

§ Anst. & Zool. Res. Yunnan Exped. i. p. 75 (1878).

'Annales du Muséum,' vol. xix. (1812); *Simia azara* appears in the list of South-American monkeys included by Humboldt in his 'Recueil d'Observations de Zoologie,' p. 357. The latter is dated 1811 on the titlepage, but it is evident that page 357 was issued at least in 1812, and after the volume of the 'Annales' for the same year, as the classification and names given by Geoffroy are frequently alluded to by Humboldt in his list.

Coming now to the Lemuroidea, I find that the ruffed lemur must be called *Lemur variegatus* instead of *varius*, the former name dating from 1792, when it was published by Kerr in his 'Animal Kingdom' as *Lemur macaco*, var. *variegatus*, whereas it was only in 1891 that I. Geoffroy first used *L. varius* *.

Tarsius tarsier must also be substituted by *T. spectrum*, as *Lemur tarsier* was employed by Erxleben in 1777 †, antedating therefore the publication of Pallas's name *Lemur spectrum* (1778) by a year.

LXX.—Ten new Fruit-bats of the Genera *Nyctimene*, *Cynopterus*, and *Eonycteris*. By KNUD ANDERSEN.

FULL descriptions of the forms briefly diagnosed in this paper will appear early next year in the British Museum Catalogue of Megachiroptera.

Nyctimene papuanus, sp. n.

Size small, forearm 51.5–59 mm. ; m^1 and m_1 subequal in size to respectively p^1 and p_4 ; inner cusp of p^3 not completely fused with outer; ears triangularly rounded off above; colour of back not distinctly mottled with dark brownish tips to the hairs; spinal stripe perfectly distinct along the whole of the back, about 3.5–5 mm. broad; sides of neck, breast, and belly much brighter in males than in females (but scarcely any sexual difference in the colour of the upperside). *Hab.* New Guinea generally (specimens examined from various localities in Dutch, German, and British New Guinea); Key Is.; Admiralty Is.; Bismarck Arch.; Cape York.

* Cat. des Prim. p. 71.

† Syst. Règn. Anim. p. 71.